

REMARKS

Claims 93, 108, 121 and 125 are amended. Claims 90, 91, 105, 106, 123 and 124 are cancelled. Claims 76-88, 92-103, 108-122, 125 and 126 are in the application for consideration.

The claim objections are overcome by cancellation or amendment to the subject claims or claims from which such depend. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is urged.

The subject matter of claim 123 has been written into independent claim 121 and otherwise amended to emphasize that the at least some of the load bearing plugs have some outer longitudinal surface portion which is straight linear along an entirety of length of said load bearing plugs. With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 121 and 123, reliance in part is based upon language in U.S. Patent No. 6,045,620 to Tepman in using screws or other "appropriate means" for attaching the Tepman interfacial structure to a transfer chamber. While it might be reasonable to infer that other appropriate means might include non-threaded outer longitudinal surfaces, in no way does such vague reference to "appropriate means" imply or suggest that the stated load bearing plugs have some outer longitudinal surface portion which is straight linear along the entirety of the length of said load bearing plugs. The other "load bearing plugs" in the other references upon which the Examiner relies include radially enlarged head portions, and therefore do not include some outer longitudinal surface portion which is straight linear along an entirety of length of such load

bearing plugs. As each of the references is lacking in this regard, the combination of such references does not render Applicant's amended claim 121 unpatentable. Accordingly, such should be allowed and action to that end is requested.

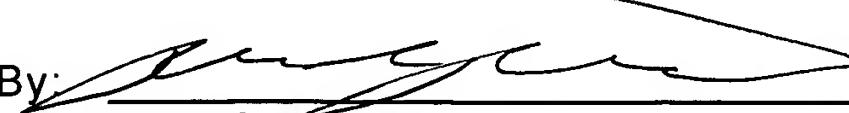
Independent claim 125 stands rejected over a combination of references which also include U.S. Patent No. 1,686,468 to Rosenberg. Independent claim 25 has been amended to recite that at least some of the load bearing plugs have some outer longitudinal surface portion which is straight linear along an entirety of length of said load bearing plugs. Such is neither shown nor suggested in any of the art upon which the Examiner relies in rejecting claim 125. Accordingly, the combination of such references did not include all of the features of Applicant's independent claim 125, and the Examiner's rejection thereof should be withdrawn. Action to that end is requested.

Applicant's dependent claims should be allowed as depending from allowable base claims, and for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested in the cited art.

This application is believed in immediate condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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